

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 184489

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PARTY

FOLLOWING REPEAT GEORGETOWN 1735 ACTION SECSTATE USUN NY
DATED AUG 04:

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1735

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GY, OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT THAT ANTI-GOVERNMENT GROUP SEEKS MEETING
WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG

SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL OF INDIAN
ORGANIZATIONS REPORTEDLY HAVE SENT A LETTER TO AMBASSADOR
YOUNG REQUESTING A MEETING TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS IN
GUYANA. THE COUNCIL IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF EAST INDIAN
ORGANIZATIONS IN GUYANA. IT IS CONSERVATIVE AND RACIST-
ORIENTED. IT RECENTLY OPPOSED GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL THAT
PUBLIC HOUSING SHOULD BE RACIALLY INTEGRATED AND FAVORS
PARTITION OF GUYANA. LEADERS OF THE GROUP, ALONG WITH
PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM, ARE WIDELY BELIEVED BY PUBLIC IN
GUYANA TO HAVE RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM CIA IN OUSTING CHEDDI
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JAGAN FROM POWER IN 1964. BURNHAM HAS RETAINED SUSPICIONS
THAT THE COUNCIL'S LEADERS CONTINUE TO HAVE CIA TIES.
END SUMMARY.

1. POLITICAL REPORTER FOR GUYANA CHRONICLE CALLED PAO
AUGUST 3 TO INQUIRE CONCERNING A REPORT THAT THE
GUYANA COUNCIL OF INDIAN ORGANISATIONS (GCIO) HAD

WRITTEN A LETTER TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG REQUESTING A MEETING WITH HIM. PAO RESPONDED THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE LETTER OR OF SUCH A REQUEST AND THAT HE HAD NO COMMENT ON THE MATTER.

2. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED GUYANA CHRONICLE HAD PAGE 5 ARTICLE AUGUST 4 WITH CAPTION "ANTI-GOVERNMENT BODY SEEKS TO MEET ANDREW YOUNG." THE TEXT OF THE ARTICLE INDICATES THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COUNCIL OF INDIAN ORGANISATIONS TELEPHONED THE NEWSPAPER SAYING HE HAD WRITTEN TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG SEEKING AN INTERVIEW WITH HIM TO "CORRECT THE IMPRESSION ABOUT THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUYANA GIVEN BY US UNDER SECRETARY PHILIP HABIB." THE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE WAS FURTHER QUOTED THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S ASSISTANCE WOULD BE SOUGHT IN THE RESTORATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES IN THE COUNTRY. IT WELCOMED THE VISIT AND COMPLIMENTED THE AMBASSADOR FOR HIS "STRONG STAND AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND FOR HUMAN RIGHTS GENERALLY." ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THE US EMBASSY AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT.

3. THE COUNCIL LABELS THE GOVERNMENT AS BEING "COMMUNIST" AND COMPLAINS THAT 1973 ELECTIONS WERE RIGGED. IT ALSO ALLEGES THAT THE GOG PRACTICES CULTURAL AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. ODDLY--FROM AN AMERICAN STANDPOINT--THEIR MOST RECENT PUBLIC STAND HAS BEEN AGAINST
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GOVERNMENT PLANS TO INTEGRATE PUBLIC HOUSING. THE COUNCIL ARGUES THAT FOR EAST INDIANS TO LIVE WITH BLACKS IN INTEGRATED PUBLIC HOUSING WOULD BE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THEM. THE COUNCIL ALSO WANTS THE PARTITION OF GUYANA INTO TWO COUNTRIES--ONE EAST INDIAN AND THE OTHER COMPOSED OF BLACK PEOPLE.

4. COMMENT: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL HAVE NOT APPROACHED THE EMBASSY FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG. THE PUBLIC MANNER IN WHICH THE COUNCIL IS HANDLING THIS MATTER MAY INDICATE IT INTENDS TO EXPLOIT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.

5. THE COUNCIL OF INDIAN ORGANISATIONS IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF EAST INDIAN GROUPS WHICH OPPOSE THE GOG. IT IS THE MOST CONSERVATIVE OF THESE GROUPS AND FOR YEARS SOUGHT TO IDENTIFY ITSELF WITH THE US EMBASSY. DURING THE CAMPAIGN TO OUST THE JAGAN GOVERNMENT IN THE EARLY 1960'S, THE LEADERS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE OPPOSITION LEADER BURNHAM COLLABORATED WITH EACH OTHER AND BOTH REPORTEDLY HAD TIES WITH AND SUPPORT FROM THE CIA IN THIS EFFORT. BURNHAM IS TRYING TO ESCAPE THIS SHADOW

FROM HIS PAST, BUT THE COUNCIL'S LEADERS REPORTEDLY
CONTINUE TO TELL THEIR SUPPORTERS THAT THEY HAVE COVERT
BACKING FROM US INTELLIGENCE. BURNHAM'S AWARENESS OF
THESE CLAIMS HAS FED HIS SUSPICIONS OF THE US. BECAUSE
THE COUNCIL REPRESENTS A RELATIVELY SMALL PORTION OF
EAST INDIANS AND BECAUSE WE CONSIDER IT TO BE A RACIST
AND ULTRA-RIGHTIST ORGANIZATION, THE EMBASSY HAS TRIED
TO DISTANCE ITSELF FROM THE EMBRACE
OF ITS LEADERS DURING THE PAST YEAR. BLACKEN UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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